



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 7 January 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- According to WIRED, an audit has found that nearly 60 percent of the air traffic control towers and other key aviation facilities run by the Federal Aviation Administration are more than 30 years old and plagued by leaks, mold, and foggy windows that can make it difficult to see the aircraft. (See item [18](#))
- Government Technology reports that hackers compromised the U.S. President-elect's Twitter account on Monday. (See item [31](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *January 6, Bloomberg* – (Alaska) **Alyeska resumes oil tanker loading at Alaskas Port of Valdez.** Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., the operator of the 800-mile Trans-Alaska crude-oil pipeline, suspended a tanker loading on January 5 at the Port of Valdez, Alaska, because of high winds and choppy seas. Attempts will be made to load the tanker early on January 6, a company spokeswoman said. Alyeska has been operating one of the two available loading berths at the port since December 29, when the company shut the Trans-Alaska pipeline after high winds prohibited vessels from loading. The pipeline was operating at reduced rates with at least two more tankers waiting to be loaded, the spokeswoman said Monday. Production in Alaska, the second-

biggest U.S. oil-pumping state, has been reduced for more than a week because of the disruption at the port. About 1.38 million barrels of production have been lost, based on the average daily output in December, according to data on the Web site of the State of Alaska's Tax Division.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=akpMoLdfyMKM&refer=energy>

2. *January 5, Reuters* – (International) **Blast damages fourth Western Canada gas well site.** Police are investigating what appears to be the fourth bombing of an EnCana Corp. natural gas facility in the Western Canadian province of British Columbia, authorities said on January 5. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said workers for the country's largest energy company found a partly destroyed metering shed at a well near Tomslake, in northeastern British Columbia, on January 4. No injuries or gas leaks were reported as a result of the explosion. Three other EnCana energy facilities in the region have been damaged by explosions since October, and police have yet to announce any suspects.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN0538121020090105>

3. *January 5, Platts* – (National) **Eleven eastern U.S. states plan to develop low-carbon fuel standard.** Eleven states in the U.S. Northeast and Mid-Atlantic — members of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), plus Pennsylvania — plan to develop a low-carbon fuel standard that may not only affect transportation fuels but also electric generation, Massachusetts' energy secretary said Monday. The Massachusetts governor initiated the idea in a letter sent last June to the governors of the 10 RGGI states, the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs said. Officials from each state last week signed a letter of intent to pursue a common standard because of the "interconnected nature" of the fuel system in the region. The letter noted that RGGI already set a precedent for multi-state efforts to reduce green house gases (GHG) from power plants. The states plan to pursue a market-based approach, similar to California's, to reduce carbon dioxide from fuels. The goal is to create a larger market for cleaner fuels, reduce GHG emissions, and support the development of clean energy technologies.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6078385.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *January 5, WKRC 12 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Chemical spill in Miami Township.** Two workers at a Miami Township company suffered minor burns during a chemical spill this January 5. It happened at a company called Agrium at 10:45 this January 5. Reports indicate the men were working on a pipe when there was a "slight release of a chemical." Plant officials identify the chemical as ammonia. Both workers were taken to a hospital as a precaution. One man had some of the chemical on his leg, the other breathed in some fumes. Plant managers say both men are experienced workers. The

company makes acid for the steel industry. They have shut down until they can be sure the plant is safe for workers to return.

Source: <http://www.local12.com/mostpopular/story/Chemical-Spill-in-Miami-Township/hXAO8Zt8EkSUOta-MccRow.csp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *January 5, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (National) **NRC deploys National Source Tracking System; milestone in security of radioactive materials.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has deployed its National Source Tracking System (NSTS), a centralized national registry to provide cradle-to-grave accounting of certain high-risk radioactive materials used in industry, medicine, and research. Licensees are required to begin using the system by January 31. Radiation sources to be tracked by the system fall into Category 1 and Category 2 of the International Atomic Energy Agency's ranking of radioactive materials. These include the individual sources used in irradiators, Gamma Knife teletherapy devices, most radiography sources, some well logging sources, and others. Licensees will report to the NSTS primarily over the Internet using a secure, authenticated link. Licensees will have access to the information for their facility, but will not have access to information about other licensees. Members of the public will not have access to the data.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-002.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *January 6, Strategy Page* – (National) **Micro-JDAM.** The U.S. firm General Dynamics has successfully tested its Roll Controlled Fixed Canard (RCFC) flight control and guidance system with 81mm mortars dropped from aircraft. The RCFC is like the guidance kit attached to aircraft bombs to give them GPS accuracy, and turn them into Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM). The RCFC screws into the front of the mortar shell, in place of the fuse. Dropped from the air, it will land within 5-10 meters of the GPS coordinates it was programmed for. An 81mm mortar shell weighs about eight pounds, with up to half that being explosives. It causes casualties within 20 meters of impact point. Thus, GPS is accurate enough to make a micro-JDAM based on 81mm mortar shells effective. The mortar shell, with the RCFC, would weigh about fifteen pounds. Such weapons would be expensive. While the mortar shells cost \$50-100 each, the RCFC for each would cost over \$20,000. The smaller JDAMs are handy for smaller Unmanned Aerial Vehicles out on patrol, and in need of a small weapon for targets of opportunity.

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htmwt/htairw/articles/20090106.aspx>

7. *January 5, Bloomberg* – (Pennsylvania) **Former Boeing employee sentenced in Chinook vandalism.** A former Boeing employee was sentenced to five months in prison for vandalizing a Chinook military helicopter on the assembly line of a plant near

Philadelphia. The worker pleaded guilty in September to willfully injuring property under contract to the federal government. He must serve five months in prison and five months of home confinement, the acting Philadelphia U.S. attorney said today in an e-mailed statement. The worker admitted he intentionally cut through half of a bundle of about 150 electrical wires to disable the aircraft in May after Boeing reassigned him to another line. Boeing temporarily suspended operations at the plant after alerting the Defense Contract Management Agency.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aYL5hbrY7J7E&refer=us>

8. *January 5, Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Toxic chemical reaction forces evacuation in Hillsboro.** A Hillsboro chip-maker was evacuated January 5 after a worker accidentally mixed chemicals that created a toxic gas, according to the Hillsboro fire department. Firefighters were called to TriQuint Semiconductor Inc. shortly before noon. The worker told firefighters that the highly diluted mixture of cyanide and sulfuric acid created a foam, prompting him to evacuate the clean room where he had been working. A hazardous materials team from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue later entered the facility in protective suits and found that the chemical reaction had ceased. No one was injured, and the plant is expected to be open Tuesday, according to a Hillsboro fire department spokesman.

Source:

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/01/toxic_chemical_reaction_forces.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *January 6, USA Today* – (National) **U.S. considers costly switch to international accounting rules.** In a regulatory sea change that could cost billions of dollars, thousands of U.S. companies — plus foreign corporations that do business here — will adopt global financial reporting rules within five years if regulators have their way. The impact is likely to surpass that of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the tough anti-corporate fraud law of the Enron era that cost individual businesses millions of dollars in accounting fees. Whether U.S. companies like it or not, the new era of global accounting appears unstoppable, and businesses that ignore the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) will fall behind. The long march to IFRS would be grueling and the preparations expensive to carry out. Companies would need two to three years to upgrade their communications and software systems and to train many thousands of financial professionals. Regulators, CPAs, and investors would need to intensely study global accounting principles. Business schools would have to teach students the new accounting. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission hopes to give companies plenty of time to adjust to IFRS. In November, the SEC issued a “road map” that could lead to regulations requiring U.S. businesses to file their financial statements using international rules by 2014, or by 2011 for companies that volunteer. The SEC is seeking public comment and has said it will decide in 2011 whether to keep that timetable.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/companies/regulation/2009-01-05-international-accounting-rule-switch_N.htm

10. *January 6, Senatobia Democrat* – (Mississippi) **AG warns of text scam.** A scam text message has apparently been circulating that targets area credit union members, announced the attorney general of Mississippi. The text message alerts the phone customer that they need to verify their Credit Union Account by calling a certain toll free number. “We received our first report of this apparent scam from the Mississippi Credit Union Association which tells us that they have had several complaints from Jackson area credit union members who had received this text message,” said the attorney general. “So far, we have confirmed that one person actually fell for the scam and his account had to be closed.” Investigators with the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General’s Office are looking into the complaints.

Source:

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1867&dept_id=124334&newsid=20234593&PAG=461&rfi=9

11. *January 6, WAFB 6 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **Local bank warns customers of phishing scam.** American Gateway Bank is urging their customers and others of a scam involving a text message sent out. A viewer from Gonzales says she received a text message that said, “This is an automated message from American Gateway Bank. Your ATM card has been suspended. To reactivate call urgent at 1-866-371-XXXX.” American Gateway Bank says they never call to request information such as account numbers, debit card, ATM pin information, or security code printed on the back of most cards. A spokesperson with AGB says they are just the latest bank to be hit by these phishing scams.

Source: http://www.wafb.com/Global/story.asp?S=9622827&nav=menu57_2

12. *January 5, Reuters* – (National) **GE’s finance arm launches \$10 bln FDIC-backed debt.** General Electric Co.’s finance arm on Monday launched a \$10 billion sale of FDIC-backed debt, the largest sale under the government guarantee program since its inception last November. The General Electric Capital Corp. sale will push total issuance under the government program to over \$115 billion, according to Thomson Reuters data. Before GE Capital’s deal, the largest sale under the program was \$9 billion on December 1 from Bank of America, according to Thomson Reuters data. The so-called Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program was created in November to fill a financing gap for banks shut out of the corporate bond market by skyrocketing yields. The new asset class is being sold to a combination of traditional corporate, agency, and Treasury investors, strategists said.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustrialConglomerates/idUSN0538328920090105>

13. *January 5, Investment News* – (National) **NY Fed to begin buying MBS.** The Federal Reserve Bank of New York Monday kicked off its initiative to support the U.S. housing market by purchasing mortgage backed securities. “The New York Federal Reserve is buying fixed-rate MBS guaranteed by mortgage lenders Fannie Mae of Washington,

Freddie Mac of McLean, Va., and Washington-based Ginnie Mae,” the Fed bank said in a statement Monday. It was not revealed the amount of money the New York Federal Reserve will spend to buy the mortgage backed securities, but that figure and the number of purchases will be released on the New York Federal Reserve’s Web site beginning January 8, with weekly updates to be provided each Thursday thereafter. The firms selected by the central bank to manage the \$500 billion purchase of MBS are BlackRock Inc. and Goldman Sachs Asset Management, both of New York; Newport Beach, Calif.-based Pacific Investment Management Co. LLC; and Boston-based Wellington Management Co. LLP. The New York Federal Reserve’s program was first announced November 25 and is designed to improve mortgage and housing conditions, and enhance the financial markets.

Source:

<http://www.investmentnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090105/REG/901059983&fromRSS=true>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

14. *January 6, Platts* – (International) **Suez Canal ship traffic falls around 50% in December.** The amount of shipping passing through the Suez Canal has fallen between 35-50 percent in December compared to the previous month and the year-ago month, a shipping source said on January 6. The source added that various reasons have contributed to the decline including “piracy, the financial crisis, the marketed volume of goods transiting the canal.” While transits in December typically fall due to the holiday season, the reductions have been greater than in previous years. The spike of piracy attacks in the Gulf of Aden throughout 2008 resulted in ship-owners avoiding the Suez Canal in the last quarter of the year, according to market sources. The Gulf of Aden and the coast off Somalia accounted for 111 of the 285 piracy attacks recorded in 2008, according to the International Maritime Bureau. The attacks led to 42 vessels being hijacked in 2008, with 14 currently still held, and around 828 crew members being taken hostage with 259 still held, the IMB said. Rerouting vessels past the Cape of Good Hope can add 14 days to journey times as well as additional fuel costs, although shippers save the transit fee they would otherwise pay to go through the Suez Canal.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8268977.xml?sub=Oil&p=Oil/News&?undefined&undefined>

15. *January 6, Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* – (Indiana) **Two OK after propeller snaps.** Two men encountered an emergency when a propeller on the single-engine plane they were riding in broke off, requiring a spur-of-the-moment landing in a Kosciusko County bean field. “It gave us no warning or anything. We just heard a loud bang and a pretty violent vibration,” the pilot said. Smoke filled the cockpit, and he shut off the engine and steered the plane to a safe landing. “Normally the engine is ripped out the airplane,” he said. The two had left Reid-Eash Airport in Howe and planned to land at Goshen Air Center. Before takeoff, the aircraft was inspected and appeared to be in proper working order. The aircraft, a 1978 Grumman Tiger, was taken to Goshen Air Center after the

landing to be further examined by the Federal Aviation Administration. Initial observation suggests the break was stress-related.

Source:

<http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090106/LOCAL07/901060387/1043/LOCAL07>

16. *January 5, Associated Press* – (International) **Unruly passenger delays Moscow-Atlanta flight.**

Delta Air Lines says a man aboard a flight from Moscow to Atlanta was so unruly that the plane had to make an unscheduled stop in Canada. A spokeswoman says the passenger was taken into custody by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police after landing at Gander International Airport in Newfoundland. She did not identify the passenger or describe what he did to make the captain decide to divert the plane.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28505852/>

17. *January 5, Associated Press* – (National) **Airlines sue FAA over crew rest rules.**

Several of the nation's largest airlines have joined in a lawsuit to block stronger federal rules on crew rest during the longest international flights. The airlines say that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) bypassed usual rule-making procedures and denied them the right to comment before it notified American Airlines and Continental Airlines Inc. of the new rules in late October. In their filing, the airlines said the new requirements would saddle them with "substantial burdens and costs." They charged that the FAA did not show how the rules would improve safety. The FAA rules would require that pilots on the longest international flights get more rest before flying again. The extra rest would be required even when only 10 percent of flights on a particular route exceed 16 hours. The FAA was trying to address pilot fatigue, which unions and others have argued is a growing safety concern, especially on flights that can run 16 hours or longer. Pilot fatigue has become a more visible safety issue as U.S. airlines seek to expand service to Asia, often flying long polar routes.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20090105/ap_tr_ge/travel_brief_airlines_faa

18. *January 5, WIRED* – (National) **Air traffic control towers go from bad to worse.**

Nearly 60 percent of the air traffic control towers and other key aviation facilities run by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are more than 30 years old and plagued by leaks, mold, and foggy windows that can make it difficult to see the aircraft, an audit has found. The audit of 16 FAA facilities selected at random by the Department of Transportation's Office of the Inspector General found "obvious structural deficiencies and maintenance-related issues." The most severe problem was condensation-clouded windows that made it difficult to see the airfield. Age is to blame for most of the problems, the audit states. The FAA has 420 staffed air traffic control centers, each with a useful life of 25 to 30 years. But 59 percent of the buildings are more than 30 years old, and the average age of the system's control towers is 29. Up to now, the FAA has said only that it will take action to address the issues and recommendations raised by the audit. They include coming up with a method for consistently funding ongoing maintenance operations, determining which FAA facilities will be needed once a new GPS-based air traffic control system is put in place, and ensuring that those facilities are equipped to handle the new system when it finally becomes a reality.

Source: <http://blog.wired.com/cars/2009/01/new-report-says.html>

19. *January 5, Aviation Herald* – (Georgia) **Incident: Delta Airlines B772 at Atlanta on Jan 2nd 2009, engine failure during takeoff.** The crew of a Delta Airlines Boeing 777, on a flight from Atlanta to Tokyo with 242 people on board, rejected takeoff at low speed due to the failure of the right hand engine. The airplane taxied back to the gate, where passengers disembarked. The runway was closed for inspection and removal of debris that had exited the engine through the inlet and outlet. Maintenance established that a number of fan blades had separated but were contained by the engine casing, causing additional damage to the engine, resulting in a subsequent compressor stall. The pilot of an adjacent airplane saw flames out of the engine inlet as the engine let go.

Source: <http://avherald.com/h?article=412d3487>

20. *January 5, WSYR 9 Syracuse* – (New York) **Plane that slid off Hancock Airport runway removed.** The American Eagle plane that slid off one of the runways at Hancock Airport Sunday night has been towed away. The airport tells us a crew from American Eagle removed the plane at around 11 a.m. Monday. There were no flight delays due to the closed runway because the airport used another runway. The flight was coming in from Chicago when it slid off the runway around 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. Icy conditions likely played a role in the incident; passengers say the plane started to fishtail when it touched down and eventually went into a snow bank. Crews used ladders to get everyone off the plane. They were bussed back to the terminal.

Source: <http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/Plane-that-slid-off-Hancock-Airport-runway-removed/iSQP7Ywh9Eefaall0JCBTw.cspcx>

21. *January 5, KRQE 13 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Two survive Santa Fe plane crash.** Two men are reported to have suffered only minor injuries when they crash-landed an airplane northwest of Santa Fe late this afternoon. The two were flying from Fort Collins, Colorado, to Santa Fe when they reported engine trouble about 4 p.m., a Santa Fe County Fire Department spokesman said. The men, whose names have not been released, were flown from the scene to the Santa Fe Municipal Airport. The type of aircraft they were flying has not been reported. The crash occurred about 11 miles north of the Santa Fe Municipal Airport near Canyon Diablo. The remote location is a few miles east of White Rock in an open area with a number of roads. Earlier official reports placed the scene east of Santa Fe. Because of the location, investigators from the New Mexico State Police and the Federal Aviation Administration won't begin their work at the scene until Tuesday morning.

Source:

http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/crime/crime_krqe_santa_fe_two_survive_santa_fe_plane_crash_200901051806

22. *January 5, Long Beach Press-Telegram* – (California) **Plane runs off Long Beach Airport runway.** A single-engine airplane veered off a runway during takeoff from Long Beach Airport Monday, striking a fence and a parked helicopter before ending up in a hangar and causing a small fire. A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman says the accident was reported around 1:30 p.m. The pilot for the Cessna 152, owned by

Temco Sky Network Service Inc., was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Source: http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_11382670

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *January 6, USAgNet* – (International) **USDA issues rule on cattle import from Mexico.** The U.S. Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced a final rule that adds San Luis, Arizona, as a port to control the import of cattle infested or exposed to fever ticks or tick-borne diseases into the United States from Mexico. However, APHIS will not allow cattle to be imported through the port of San Luis, Arizona, until a new facility for the handling of animals is first constructed on the Mexican side of the border. To protect American livestock, the regulations require that cattle from Mexico must be inspected individually at APHIS-approved facilities on the Mexican side of the border and be certified free of ticks. All ruminants offered for entry into the United States from Mexico must be inspected at the port of entry and found to be free from communicable diseases and fever tick infestation and to not have been exposed to communicable diseases and fever tick infestation. Ruminants found to be affected with or to have been exposed to a communicable disease, or infested with fever ticks, are to be refused entry except under certain conditions.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=25&yr=2009>

24. *January 6, USAgNet* – (Iowa) **Dairy manure reaches stream in Bremer County.** The DNR is investigating a manure release that has reached an unnamed tributary of Crane Creek, southeast of Denver and about 12 miles north of Waterloo. Producers at the Denver Dairy found the release at 5 a.m. when they began work on New Year's Day. Initially they reported that the dairy manure had not reached a stream, although it had plugged a pipe between the milking parlor and an earthen storage basin. However, an unknown amount of manure has reached an underground tile line that flows into an unnamed tributary of Crane Creek. It is unknown if the spill has caused a fish kill, although no dead fish had been observed by January 2. The Department of Natural Resources will issue a notice of violation for not reporting the manure spill within six hours of its occurrence or discovery.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=28&yr=2009>

25. *January 5, USAgNet* – (National) **Researcher focus on bringing missing bees back.** Scientists in the field and the lab are trying to solve a mystery critical to the future of American agriculture: Why are honeybee hives failing at a disturbingly high rate? Some

researchers are studying whether pesticides and other chemicals used in fields and gardens might affect honeybees, as well as bumblebees and other insects that pollinate crops. According to the Associated Press, other research is focusing on building more habitat — planting trees, shrubs, and flowers that pollinators prefer. Bees are vital to U.S. agriculture because they pollinate many flowering crops, including almonds, apples, and blueberries. The bee pollination is responsible for \$15 billion annually in crop value. The honeybees have taken a hit over the years from mites and, most recently, colony collapse disorder, in which beekeepers have found affected hives devoid of most bees. Bees that remain appear much weaker than normal. Beekeepers in 2006 began reporting losing 30 percent to 90 percent of their hives. Since then, the annual loss rate has been roughly 33 percent, according to government estimates.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=15&yr=2009>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

26. *January 5, Environment News Service* – (Indiana) **Mercury found at high levels in Indiana streams.** Six of every 100 streams in Indiana contain mercury at levels greater than the state water quality standard protecting human health, according to research released today by the U.S. Geological Survey. With new mapping techniques, the scientists identified an area in southeastern Indiana with some of the highest levels of mercury deposition in the United States. Mercury concentrations in 73 percent of the samples exceeded the more restrictive state water quality standard protecting wildlife. More than 80 percent of the water samples had detectable methylmercury, the most toxic form of mercury that accumulates in fish, birds, and mammals at the top of food chains.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2009/2009-01-05-094.asp>

27. *January 5, Water Technology Online* – (Wisconsin) **City negotiates fine for failure to remove radium.** The City of Waukesha is facing fines for failure to completely remove radium from its drinking water, and according to a January 1 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the city attorney's office are negotiating the fine amount. The fine amount is expected to be levied as a single fine as opposed to a fine that accumulates each day the city remains non-compliant, the mayor told the Journal Sentinel. In October, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asked the state attorney general's office to fine the cities of Waukesha and Fond du Lac up to \$5,000 per day for failure to reduce the amount of radium in their drinking water. The two cities, along with dozens of other utilities, had a December 2006 deadline to reduce radium levels in drinking water and meet federal safe drinking water standards.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71189

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *January 6, Reuters* – (International) **China confirms woman died of bird flu in Beijing.** A 19-year-old woman has died of the H5N1 bird flu virus in Beijing after coming into contact with poultry, health authorities in Beijing and Hong Kong said on Tuesday. This human H5N1 case would be China's first in almost a year. Experts said while the case was not unexpected as the virus is more active during the cooler months between October and March, it points to holes in surveillance of the virus in poultry. With the world's biggest poultry population and hundreds of millions of farmers raising birds in their backyards, China is seen as crucial in the global fight against bird flu. China's official Xinhua News Agency earlier reported that 116 people, including the patient's 14 family members and neighbor and 102 medical workers, had been in close contact with the patient. At least 20 people have died of bird flu in China to date. In neighboring Vietnam, a five-year-old has been infected with bird flu, the first human case reported in the country this year, Vietnam's state-run television said on Tuesday. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090106/ts_nm/us_birdflu_china
29. *January 6, KATU 2 Portland* – (Oregon) **Milwaukie hospital locked down over threat.** The Milwaukie Providence Hospital in Milwaukie, Oregon, went into lockdown Monday night after a man armed with a gun threatened to kill himself in the parking lot, police said. All ambulance traffic was diverted as a precautionary measure, police said. The Clackamas County SWAT and Hostage Negotiation Team responded, and the man was taken into custody without incident about 9:30 p.m. Source: <http://www.katu.com/news/37140149.html>
30. *January 5, Associated Press* – (New York) **7 hospitals in NY accused of \$50M Medicaid fraud.** Four hospitals in New York State paid kickbacks to get more patients into their drug treatment programs, which billed Medicaid for services that were not standard or necessary and lacked state certification, lawsuits allege. Another hospital paid people to search homeless shelters and other places for patients to enter a three-day stay in detox in exchange for cigarettes, beer, food, and other items, according to the lawsuit brought by the state attorney general and a U.S. attorney. The lawsuits allege those five hospitals and two others fraudulently billed Medicaid for more than \$50 million in more than 14,000 different claims. In both investigations, former hospital employees notified authorities of the issues, dating to 2002. Five of the hospitals denied wrongdoing Monday, while the others could not be reached. The state attorney general said all seven hospitals claimed their detox services were part of a government treatment program but did not have the required state license. The lawsuits allege four of the hospitals engaged in a kickback scheme with Missouri-based SpecialCare Hospital Management Corp. to refer patients to the hospitals' detox units. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090106/ap_on_re_us/medicaid_lawsuit

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

31. *January 6, Government Technology* – (National) **Obama's twitter account hacked.** Hackers compromised 33 Twitter accounts on Monday, including that of the U.S. President-elect, according to multiple news sources and Twitter. The Washington Times

reported that at about 12:30 p.m., a message was sent to the President-elect's followers asking them to participate in a survey. The message read, "What is your opinion on Barack Obama? Take the survey and possibly win \$500 in free gas." The message contained a link to a two-question survey on another Web site. A January 5 post on Twitter's blog titled Monday Morning Madness said, "These accounts were compromised by an individual who hacked into some of the tools our support team uses to help people do things like edit the e-mail address associated with their Twitter account when they can't remember or get stuck. We considered this a very serious breach of security and immediately took the support tools offline. We'll put them back only when they are safe and secure." Security experts say it is likely the President-elect will have to give up some of the technological trappings he became accustomed to on the campaign trail.

Source: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/579340?topic=117671>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

32. *January 5, KVUE 24 Austin* – (Texas) **City task force looking to improve 911 calls.**

Concerns about 911 callers being put on hold are getting a lot of attention from city leaders. Statistics from last year show 98 percent of 911 calls were answered in under 20 seconds. It is the remaining 2 percent that concerned the city. "There is [sic] some significant response time issues. If we continue with the tens of thousands of calls that are on hold for more than 21 seconds, we're not measuring response time till we answer the phone," a councilmember said. The safety task force also wants more information about 911 callers who hang up. Four to 6 percent hang up on dispatchers every month, and no numbers are kept on people who hang up before their call is answered.

Source: http://www.kvue.com/news/local/stories/_010509kvue-911-mw.413aca86.html

33. *January 5, WNCN 17 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Wake launches advanced practice paramedics.** A unique program that matches specially-trained paramedics with the most acute patients was unveiled Monday by Wake County EMS personnel. The program aims to prevent emergencies in certain high-risk patient populations, and ensure that patients receive the treatment they need at facilities other than emergency rooms. Late last fall, the county's EMS department began training 17 experienced paramedics for APP. Participants received intense classroom and clinical training to prepare them to operate as single paramedics in cars equipped with EMS equipment. The program will ensure that at least one additional, experienced paramedic is assigned to each high-acuity EMS call, which often requires multiple paramedics to perform time-sensitive procedures in a short period of time. In the past, the system sometimes used two ambulances to provide the necessary number of paramedics. APP will allow many of those patients to be treated while allowing the second ambulance to remain in service.

Source:

<http://wake.mync.com/site/wake/news%7CSports%7CLifestyles/story/23469/wake-launches-advanced-practice-paramedics>

34. *January 5, Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **County moves on emergency alert system.**

Hudson County, New Jersey, has a new emergency siren and radio broadcast alert system in Hudson County by the county's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). It is part of ongoing precautionary measures mandated by the U.S. Homeland Security Department to help protect the region in the wake of a natural or man-made catastrophe, Hudson's OEM coordinator said. His office is also continuing to work with a team of Rutgers University consultants to plot out an emergency evacuation route for the Hudson and metropolitan area that must be completed by January 2010. "We're looking at things like demographics and behavior analysis," he said. The goal is to predict how different elements of the population react during a disaster — how many people, for example, would rely on mass transit versus fleeing the area in their cars. The federal Homeland Security grant of \$792,000 financing the emergency alert package stipulates that the system must be up and running by February 1. To comply, OEM has hired Kevco Electric to install 31 strategically placed 70-decibel sirens atop 55-foot poles throughout the county.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1231140360285420.xml&coll=3>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

35. *January 5, InternetNews.com* – (International) **The dangers of Web access.** As companies rely more heavily on the Web in their move toward Enterprise 2.0, they face an increasing number of security and network problems. A Web survey of companies with an average of 1,000 employees conducted by Osterman Research on behalf of PureWire, a Web security software as a service vendor, found the majority of the 139 respondents concerned about the Internet. Fears that the Internet is an entry point for malware topped their list of concerns, with the impact of the Web and Web security on network bandwidth coming in second, and enforcement of Web usage coming in third. While many companies have established corporate policies against downloading certain types of files and have deployed systems that will block such downloads, they are not adequate solutions, the survey found. The security problem is partly due to the outdated enterprise approach to Web security and partly due to Web 2.0 technologies, a chief technology officer at PureWire told InternetNews.com.

Source:

<http://www.internetnews.com/security/article.php/3793996/The+Dangers+of+Web+Access.htm>

36. *January 5, Softpedia* – (International) **New critical XSS flaw plagues Facebook.** A new cross-site scripting vulnerability affecting the Facebook social networking Web site has been disclosed on the XSSed project's website. The flaw allows for injection of potentially malicious code. The XSSed report credits security researcher DaiMon with the discovery of this latest threat. According to Alexa, Facebook currently has a global page rank of 5 and, as one of XSSed Project's co-founders, points out, this significantly increases the flaw's attack potential. "Malicious users can inject code to phish credentials and other sensitive personal information from millions of Facebook members," he explains.

Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/New-Critical-XSS-Flaw-Plagues-Facebook-101175.shtml>

37. *January 5, The Register* – (International) **Boffin brings ‘write once, run anywhere’ to Cisco hijacks.** A researcher has discovered a way to reliably exploit a known security vulnerability in a wide class of Cisco System routers, a finding that for the first time allows attackers to hijack millions of devices with a single piece of code. The discovery by an employee of Recurity Labs in Berlin brings the write-once-run-anywhere approach of software development to the dark art of compromising routers that form the core of the Internet. Previously, reliable exploit code had to be specifically fashioned to one of more than 15,000 different supported builds of IOS, or Internet Operating System, which run various Cisco devices. “What FX has shown, conclusively, is that when something comes out that can potentially compromise your router, you have to get on it as you would get on a remote vuln, for, say, your domain controllers or database servers,” said a fellow researcher who has reviewed the findings. “Router infrastructure has been conclusively proven to be as generically vulnerable as commodity operating systems.” By using small chunks of ROMmon, the finding has shown that it is possible to drop code into specific memory locations and then execute it.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/01/05/cisco_router_hijacking/

38. *January 5, SC Magazine* – (International) **Web defacements escalate as Israel moves farther into Gaza.** The number of Web sites defaced in protest of the Israeli invasion of Gaza dramatically spiked over the weekend. More than 10,000 sites have been compromised by hackers, who are gaining control of the sites to scrawl anti-Israeli, anti-American, and pro-Palestinian messages, said the director of research in computer forensics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The number of victim sites significantly jumped from the time the director first reported the campaign last week. In fact, a number of high-profile Israel-based sites, including Ynetnews.com and israelairlines.com, recently fell victim to defacement when a Moroccan-based hacker team illegally accessed a New York-based domain registrar, Domain The Net Technologies. The intruders were able to redirect traffic by changing the domain name servers. A representative at the registrar, which hosted the sites, could not immediately be reached for comment. The anti-Israeli attacks are being launched from Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco, the director said. No sites appear off limits, he said. In fact some appear entirely unrelated to the conflict in Gaza, such as the U.S.-based Georgia Young Farmers Association, which was defaced on January 5.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Web-defacements-escalate-as-Israel-moves-farther-into-Gaza/article/123542/>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

Communications Sector

39. *January 5, Techworld* – (International) **DECT phones and POS terminals are vulnerable.** German security experts have built a cheap laptop-based sniffer that can break into cordless phones, debit card terminals, and security door mechanisms — and the same gear will also work on the next generation of Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications (DECT), known as Cordless Advanced Technology-internet and quality, or CAT-iq. It can intercept calls and information directly, recording it in digital form. Even if encryption is switched on, the system can bypass encryption — simply by pretending to be a base station that does not support it. The DECT protocol is used in many millions of cordless phones, as well as in wireless debit card readers, security doors, and traffic management systems. It has encryption built in, but the protocol is kept secret. If they cannot get encryption to work, all the most popular phones will happily revert to unencrypted communications, said one researcher: “A phone should break the connection if the encryption is rejected, but the priority from the manufacturer lies on interoperability not on security, so this is accepted to make the phones work with more (unsecure) stations.” A cryptographer working in the group that demonstrated the DECT problems said it is not clear whether the same method would work on debit card reading systems, since these may enforce the use of encryption, or employ higher level encryption such as Secure Socket Layer (SSL). “We haven’t been able to verify whether any POS terminals actually do reject unencrypted communications,” he said. “If however the UAK - the master secret shared between the base station and the terminal - generated during the pairing of the POS terminal with the base station is weak, then all communications can be decrypted anyway.”

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/010509-dect-phones-and-pos-terminals.html?hpg1=bn>

40. *January 5, FierceTelecom* – (National) **The pull of home networks for telecom.** This week Telcordia is promoting two white papers mapping out what it calls the “intricacies of telecom’s newest frontier - the home network.” Understanding the home network is a big challenge for service providers of all types. If a service does not work, the first organization to get the call will typically be the service provider, followed by a call to the equipment manufacturer, and a lot of finger-pointing all around if calls #1 and #2 do not resolve the problem to the end user’s satisfaction. In “Broadband Home Network Infrastructure - Viewing the Future,” Telcordia analyzes the importance of a home network infrastructure in the era of high-bandwidth networks and the move from multiple, autonomous home networks to integrated, broadband home networks that support multiple HDTV streams, including voice, video, and data. The second report, “Enabling and Ensuring QoS in the Future Broadband Home Network,” addresses the issues in providing and assuring Quality of Service for multimedia services throughout the home network.

Source: <http://www.fiercetelecom.com/story/spotlight-pull-home-networks-telecom/2009-01-05>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *January, 6 Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Suspicious package forces evacuation at Tennessean.** A suspicious package found late Monday outside the Tennessean newspaper plant forced employees to evacuate for three hours while a bomb squad and hazardous materials team investigated. No explosives or toxic materials were found, though the evacuation delayed the printing of several publications and could delay deliveries January 6. The metro police captain says authorities are testing a “suspicious” substance found inside the package to determine what it is. The Tennessean, USA Today, the Daily News Journal of Murfreesboro, and the Leaf-Chronicle of Clarksville are printed at the paper’s Broadway plant.

Source: http://www.wztv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.tn/276303e3-www.fox17.com.shtml

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

42. *January 5, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **New study shows massive earthquake could cause Anderson Dam to fail.** The risk is small, but the largest dam in Santa Clara County could collapse in a major earthquake, according to a new study. A 6.6 magnitude quake centered directly at Anderson Reservoir near Morgan Hill, or a 7.2 quake centered one mile away, could cause the reservoir’s 240-foot-high earthen dam to fail, an engineering report that the Santa Clara Valley Water District released Monday found. In the worst case, a complete failure of Anderson Dam could send a wall of water 35 feet high into downtown Morgan Hill within 14 minutes, and eight feet deep into San Jose within three hours, under state emergency scenarios. On Monday, water district officials alerted neighboring towns of the report, though district officials emphasized that the dam is safe. But they said they will not allow its water level to come within 30 feet of the top — leaving the reservoir no more than 87 percent full — for at least 18 months while more detailed engineering studies are done. The reservoir is currently 63 percent full. A report prepared December 17 for the district by AMEC Geomatrix, an Oakland engineering firm, found in one of 13 test borings that the dam’s foundation contains sand and gravel, which could liquefy in a big quake. Most of the foundation was scraped down to bedrock when the dam was built. In a worst-case scenario, the dam would almost certainly not all collapse at once, like a concrete structure might, but rather if completely full, could slump and begin to erode away from the top, giving people a day or so to evacuate, an engineering unit manager for dam safety with the water district said.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_11381307?source=most_email

43. *January 4, Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **TVA rejected costly fixes.** After a blowout five years ago on the wall of a massive, above-ground coal ash landfill at Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Kingston power plant, engineers were under pressure to find a fix that was not only viable, but also economical. The blowout was not large but indicated that something was not quite right inside the 98-acre mound of sludge. Water was tunneling in the layers of ash and creating pressure points on the dike holding the structure in place. How the TVA decided to stabilize Kingston's ash landfill would have implications for its many other elevated waste dumps, an important tool in the agency's strategy to maximize its storage on-site and avoid more costly options. A Tennessean review of state records and some TVA documents shows that top officials rejected solutions that were deemed "global fixes" because they were simply too costly. The most expensive option was listed at \$25 million. In the end, TVA chose to install a series of trenches and other drainage mechanisms to try to relieve the water pressure and give the walls more stability. On December 22, the walls gave way. The cleanup could cost far more than the most expensive options TVA once considered.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090104/GREEN02/901040392/1001/RSS6001>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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